8/1/88

Dear Harold,

Received your letter dated July 26th. I wanted to let you know that I was unable to locate the newspaper article about Cronkite's proposed special on the JFK Assassination. I am almost positive it was USA Today that carried the article. It was just a sentence or two in the Life section. The date would have been either the last week of June or the first two weeks in July. It said that Cronkite had proposed a special on the assassination for the 25th anniversary of JFK's death. The special he wanted to do would have had actors read portions of the Warren Report. CBS nixed the idea. (I suppose CBS felt this type of show would hardly boost their sagging ratings). The article was mainly about (when I say article, I'm talking about a paragraph that appears on pg. 3 of the Life section in a column called "Inside TV" by Matt Roush) a special CBS is going to do on the life of JFK which will be hosted by Dan Rather. It may have mentioned that Rather first got national noteriety reporting on the assassination (of course, it did not mention his faulty description of the Zapruder film). I'm not positive, but that article may have also had the notice of the Jack Anderson special. The Anderson special is two hours linking the Mob to the Killing (sounds to me like it will cover mob connections already mentioned in David Scheim's book and the Ruby mob connections [redacted] investigated in the House Assassinations Committee Report). Anderson's special was also mentioned in Variety. I had the past two weeks of Variety and it wasn't in any of those, so it must have been in an earlier issue I no longer have. If you really want the article, I can go to the Variety office and try to find the back issue. Let me know. As I remember, the article in Variety was about the company syndicating the special. They were doing four specials to be hosted by Anderson. The first was on the JFK Assassination. It didn't mention what the other three specials' subject matter would be and although

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they had no air date as of yet, they mentioned October as a possible time of airing.

I have saved and am including a few articles on a new book called LIBRA by Don DeLillo. I don't know his material, but a few friends tell me he's a good writer. However, this book which weaves fiction with non-fiction sounds like it falls into the category of EXECUTIVE ACTION. Why we need a fiction solution to the assassination when we don't have the real solution is beyond me. (Reminds me of Woody Allen's line about writing a non-fiction version of the Warren Report). As you said in your recent letter the 25th Anniversary will be a time for more disinformation. The most preposterous idea in the DeLillo book is that the conspirators (a group of anti-Castro Cubans and unhappy CIA men) decide they need an "electrifying event". So they decide to shoot at Kennedy but they don't hit him, they miss. But for some reason (I haven't read the book) Oswald, a social misfit, kills the president anyway.

(P.S. - The review of the DeLillo book was also in Sunday NY Times book review section 7/24/88. I don't get the NY Times, but a friend told me he saw it - he threw the paper out so I couldn't get it)

I mentioned a video tape called "The Plot To Kill President Kennedy" in my last letter. This "documentary" is based on material from Anthony Summers book and not an actual documentary of the book, but Summers gets a credit on the film.

After all these years of my interest in the assassination, there is something I must ask you. If you'd rather not answer I understand. I know you have always dealt in documented proof and not speculation. I also know that the murder will never be solved in the way we'd like it to be i.e. finding the actually gunmen and naming names of conspiratorics. But having done so much research you must have your theories about what elements were at work the day in Dallas. I am curious as to what you think. Again, if this is something you would rather not get into, I understand. I know you were involved with the

Garrison trial. I have always wondered if he was on to something. I know the government discredited him, but it also seems like he was ill-prepared for a trial. Again, I am no expert on the trial. I do know some important information came out of the trial, but as usual was largely ignored by the press. I was in the car the other day and caught a talk show with Mort Sahl on it. I know from what I have read about him that he is uneasy about the JFK Assassination and talking about it, because he was branded an obsessive fanatic and his career suffered from it. A few calls came in and asked him about the assassination and its effect on the elections over the past 20 years. He said, don't think that what happened in the streets of Dallas isn't in the minds of candidates. He then attacked "liberals" and the ACLU for being too busy holding benefits in honor of Lenny Bruce instead of being interested in real issues. He also mentioned that the press didn't cover the fact that when Oliver North talked about setting up a special unit with CIA chief William Casey to make sure U.S. foreign policy was carried out (a separate unit from the CIA), Senator Daniel Inouye took the meeting into Executive session and off the record. I assume his inference is that even the Democrats will do what they have to to protect certain information that they don't want the public to know. Then a caller asked about Garrison and he replied that he is still friendly with Garrison who is a judge and will see him when he goes to the Republican convention. He noted the Garrison's prosecution of Clay Shaw was important because he discovered several instances of perjury and came within an "eyelash" of convicting Shaw. He again attacked the press for failing to cover that aspect of the trial. And he ended by saying that in 1979 the House Assassination Committee came to the same conclusion as Garrison, i.e. a conspiracy killed JFK. At this point he flippantly remarked that's when he decided Oswald did it, because

he didn't want to be in agreement with the Federal Government on anything.

I mean to mention earlier when I was on the subject of USA Today that Gordon Shanklin's obituary appeared there.

As I was going through some old files of mine, I came across a couple of things I wanted you to have. One is an article from the National Enquirer in 1973 (don't know the exact date, but you are mentioned). The other article is from OUI magazine (I don't have a date but my guess would be sometime in 1975). The article is about the critics of the assassination solution and you are included in it. It also has a good deal about your differences with Mark Lane. I must have misfiled them, because I know I saved them to send to you back then.

Recently, I was looking through WHITEWASH II and looking very hard at the Altgens photo. And I have to tell you that although the man in the doorway is dressed like Oswald, he looks more like Lovelady. I know Lovelady was photographed in a vertically striped shirt by the FBI and a photo in a book by Robert Groden and Peter Model shows a man they say is Lovelady on Nov. 22nd, in a long sleeve red and blue plaid shirt. He is also sporting a beard in that photo. The man in the Altgen's photo has a hairline closer to Lovelady's. His ears stick out like Lovelady's and his temple's have that same line the shows in the FBI photo. On the other hand, I can't say positively it's Lovelady. But it doesn't look that much like Oswald to me. Even if Oswald isn't in that doorway, it hardly makes him the assassin. I have a pretty good eye for faces and I just never felt it was Oswald. That doesn't mean I'm right. It's a blurry photo when blown up and ~~[illegible]~~ in a regular size photo of the whole shot, the figure is very tiny.

If you are willing to part with one of your copies of Oswald in New Orleans. I would

be happy to make the expenditure. I'd like to have a copy for my own library. If you'd rather not part with one of your last copies, I'll try to track down one of the people you mentioned. If you decide to sell me a copy, tell me what to send (check or money order), how I should make it out and the cost with postage and handling.

The reason I mentioned gypsies in my last letter was only because I was researching them for a script. I was at the library and ended up taking out a bunch of books on the assassination. I hadn't read many of the books issued in the past ten years, so I decided to catch up. I'm continuing work on a film script since I have a lot of free time with the on-going WGA strike. Producers walked out of the talks this weekend, so I don't know when it will end. We're entering the 6th month of the strike. This being an industry town, means alot of people besides writers and producers get hurt. Restaurants, caterers, make-up people, trucking people, you name it — they're hurting. It's got to end eventually, but in the meantime, we'll have to stick it out.

I noticed you're an Orioles fan (you mentioned it in your letter). I'm a big baseball fan myself. My hometown team the Cincinnati Reds aren't faring much better than Baltimore. Baltimore and the Reds had such great teams in the 60's and 70's, it's too bad they can't get back on track. The big disappointment for me has been how mediocre a manager Pete Rose turned out to be. Great players don't always make great managers

Thanks for getting back to me so rapidly. How are you feeling these days? I hope all is well with you. Any way I can help (articles etc.) just ask. Take care.

Sincerely

Robert